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Address of the New York
Colonization Society to the
public.

New York, 1834.





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A D D R E S S

OF THE

NEW YORK CITY

COLONIZATION SOCIETY,

TO THE PUBLIC.

By Robert B. Ford, Jr.

New York, February 12th, 1834.

NEW YORK:

WM. A. MERCEIN, PRINTER, 240 PEARL STREET.

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Feb. 12, 1834
At a meeting of the Colonization Society of the city of New York, held at their office, on Wednesday evening, February 12th, 1834,—the following persons were elected Officers for the current year:—

President.

WILLIAM A. DUER.

ABRAHAM VAN NEST, GARDINER SPRING, D. D. JOHN W. HINTON, HUGH MAXWELL, JAMES MILNOR, D. D. NATHAN BANGS, D. D.	}	<i>Vice Presidents.</i>
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IRA B. UNDERHILL, *Recording Secretary.*

JOHN W. MULLIGAN, *Corresponding Secretary.*

MOSES ALLEN, *Treasurer.*

Managers.

ANSON G. PHELPS,
ISRAEL CORSE,
JAMES DONALDSON,
REV. JOHN P. DURBIN,
HUBERT VAN WAGENEN,
FRANCIS L. HAWKES, D. D.
DAVID M. REESE, M. D.
SAMUEL A. FOOT,
SAMUEL C. AKERLY, M. D.
REV. WILLIAM JACKSON,
WILLIAM L. STONE,
REV. CYRUS MASON,
JAMES MONROE,
SILAS BROWN,
ANSON BLAKE,

FRANCIS HALL,
GABRIEL P. DISOSWAY,
HENRY V. GARRITSON,
THOMAS BELL,
JOHN R. DAVISON,
HENRY S. RICHARDS,
JAMES M. GOOLD,
DANIEL LORD, JR.
JOSIAH L. HALE,
THOMAS DE WITT, D. D.
WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL,
JOHN WOODBRIDGE, D. D.
AARON CLARK,
THOMAS G. FLETCHER,
THOMAS C. DOREMUS.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board, which was fully attended, it was determined with great unanimity, to send a pioneer expedition to Africa in May, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the immediate founding of the contemplated colony. For this purpose, Mr. ISRAEL W. SEARL, a graduate of Amherst College, was appointed to take charge of the same, under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. SPALDING, who had been previously appointed principal agent of the Society in Africa.

At the same meeting, SAMUEL A. FOOT, Esq., from a committee previously appointed for the purpose of reporting the draft of an Address to the public on the subject of the affairs of the Parent Society at Washington, and the operations of this Society both present and in prospect, made the following Report on those subjects, which was read, and unanimously adopted.

ADDRESS.

By Robert S. Finley
Agent

THE Colonization Society of the City of New York, consider it their duty at this time, to present to the public the views of the Society on the subject of the present condition and prospects of the American Colonization Society, and of the practicability of further efforts in favor of the cause of colonization.

Apprehending that the annual meeting of the Parent Society, which was held at Washington in January last, would be an important one, and require the attendance and attention of the best friends of the cause, this Society appointed five delegates to attend the meeting, not only to aid in whatever investigations it might be necessary to make into past transactions, and assist in adopting measures for conducting future operations, but also to give, on their return, full and accurate information to this Society of the condition and prospects of the Parent Board. The delegates whom this Society appointed, were the Rev. Gardiner Spring, D. D., the Hon. Cornelius W. Lawrence, the Hon. James Strong, Silas Brown, Esquires, and the Agent of this Society, Robert S. Finley, Esquire.

Messrs Spring, Brown, and Finley, having returned, this Society has received an authentic account of the annual meeting of the Parent Society, and of the developments made, and measures taken for the future, at that meeting, and will now proceed to present them to their fellow citizens.

It is already known to the public, that the friends of colonization were deeply afflicted at the disclosures, which were made at Washington, of the inefficiency of the former management of the American Colonization Society, and

of the heavy debt which had been incautiously, and, it is feared, in respect to a large portion of it, unnecessarily contracted by that Society.

This Society, however, are willing to find an apology for this unhappy occurrence, in the wide extent of the duties of the officers and managers of the Parent Society, and in the peculiar and untried character of those duties. And when we revert to the history of the planting of colonies in this country, and reflect how many lives and fortunes were lost, and how many actual failures occurred, we have reason to rejoice, and thank the Ruler of all things, that in the new and arduous duty of planting a colony on the coast of Africa, the only mistake which has been made, is the inconsiderate contracting of a somewhat heavy debt.

This occurrence, and the consequent embarrassment of the affairs of the American Colonization Society, may be traced, *primarily*, to the defectiveness of its original organization, which was made when the extent and nature of its duties were not, and could not be known.

The number of managers was unnecessarily large, being forty-five, including the Vice Presidents, who by the old constitution, were, *ex-officio*, members of the Board.—Not more than six or seven of the members usually attended the meetings of the Board to transact the business of the Society. And at one time, *one set* of managers transacted the business, and at another time, *another set*. Hence, there was a want of uniformity and consistency in their operations.

Owing in part to the same cause, and in part to the manner in which they were elected, the members of the Board felt, and were under no direct responsibility to those who contributed principally to the funds of the Society. They were elected, not by delegates from the auxiliary Societies, but by members of the parent Society; and every person was a member, who contributed one dollar annually to its funds.

In consequence of these regulations, the friends of the cause, at a distance from Washington, neither took any part in the election of managers, nor inspected their proceedings after they were elected.

The elections, generally, were informally held at the annual meetings ; and usually resulted in continuing from year to year the same managers. The public never called for, nor received the result of an investigation into their proceedings ; and they consequently felt but little, if any, accountability.

To substantially the same cause, viz : the defective organization of the Board, and the consequent looseness in their mode of conducting business, may be traced the want of responsibility *to the Board, of their agents; especially those who resided in Africa.*

In addition to the causes of inefficient action already presented, it should also be stated, that the Treasurer of the Parent Society, was not a salaried officer, and of course, could not be expected to bestow the time, attention, and financial skill, which the fiscal concerns of the large and extensive operations, which the Society were conducting, imperiously required. He appears to have considered, and doubtless correctly, his duty performed, when he received and carefully kept all the money paid to him, and honestly disbursed it, in pursuance of the orders of the Board.

When the operations of the Society, both in this country and Africa, were on a limited scale, and the cause was blessed with agents in Africa, peculiarly qualified for their stations, its affairs were prosperous, and the imperfections of its organization did not disclose themselves. But when the business of the Society became extensive and intricate, and the immediate administration of the colony passed into feebler hands, the state of things began to manifest itself, which was fully developed at the late annual meeting.

It appeared, that the *excess of demands upon, and over*

the income of the Society, for the last year, amounted to *forty-one thousand dollars*, and the Society was in arrears to that extent, at the close of the year. This was an unexpected and discouraging disclosure. But a little reflection, and an examination, and statement of the resources of the American Colonization Society, will convince its friends, that there is no reason for being disheartened. The *mere amount* of this sum, which is now a debt on the Society, sinks in importance, when we compare it with the means which the Society possesses for discharging it, and prosecuting hereafter its sacred enterprise.

The following items of its resources will show, that they are ample, not only for the prompt discharge of the debt, but for the continuance of its future operations without material embarrassment.

A legacy due from the estate of the late Mr.	
Ireland, New Orleans, - - -	\$10,000
Do. from the estate of Mr. Burr, of Vermont,	
\$5000, which, with interest from 1828, is estimated at	6000
Do. of the late Dr. Aylet Hawes, of Virginia, -	2000
Do. of the late Mrs. Muldrow, of Kentucky,	500
Money in the Treasury of the Kentucky Colonization Society, - - -	1500
Money raised by the friends of colonization in Albany, to send out temperance emigrants, -	1500
Moneys in the Treasuries of the Auxiliary Societies, estimated at - - -	1000
Subscription at the late annual meeting, -	10,000
Do since that time, - - -	2000
Annual income from imposts on goods imported into the Colony, - - -	5000
Annual and average income from donations in this country, - - -	40,000
Donations expected from England, say -	2500
	<hr/>
	\$82,000

It is not then the *amount* of the debt so much as the *manner* in which it was contracted, that fills the friends of the cause with regret. This society feels bound in candor to state to the public, that there has been an extravagant and heedless expenditure of money in the colony ; and that the injudicious administration of, and the unfortunate management in the colony, are mainly to be attributed to the want of attention and efficient supervision at home ; and of establishing and enforcing a rigid accountability on the part of disbursing colonial agents. An excuse for this, however, will be found by the friends of the cause, in the increased magnitude and difficulty of the undertaking, and in the entire inadequacy of the first organization of the society, for its subsequent extended operations.

Having thus briefly, and in general terms, stated the causes of the misfortune, the friends of colonization have encountered—we take pleasure in assuring the public, that decisive, and we hesitate not to say, effectual measures have been adopted, to prevent any similar occurrence.

The friends of the cause, who attended the late Annual Meeting of the Parent Society, were enabled, with a most gratifying unanimity, and with the hearty concurrence of the former Managers, to effect a re-organization and establish regulations, which will not only remove the causes of the present embarrassment, but place an effectual safeguard against their recurrence.

The number of the members of the Board of Managers, has been reduced, and its efficiency increased, by introducing several new members of distinguished philanthropy, business talents and habits, and financial skill ; and by the appointment of an additional Secretary and a salaried Treasurer, both of whom are believed to possess superior qualifications for their stations.

A new Colonial Governor, eminently qualified for the office, has been elected.

The accountability of the Board to the public has been secured, by giving their election to the *delegates from the Auxiliary Societies, and the Life members of the Society*, and requiring a full statement to the annual meeting of all their operations and proceedings. The re-organization and new regulations will also ensure a rigid accountability to the Board, of their officers and agents in Africa, as well as in this country.

A new and important principle of action is also about to be adopted for the future operations of the Society.—The Parent Board will probably hereafter wholly abstain from the superintendence in detail of transporting emigrants to the colony ; and leave to such of the auxiliary and local Societies, as choose to undertake it, the labor and expense of collecting emigrants, sending them to Africa, and providing for them on their arrival, and until they can sustain themselves.

It appears to be generally expected that the Parent Society will confine itself to, and find sufficient employment, in governing and defending the colony, enlarging its territory, fostering its civil, religious and literary institutions, and placing them on a broad and permanent basis. It will however, and no doubt ought to retain and exercise the power of controlling and regulating the auxiliary and local societies, in their mode of conducting emigration. It should certainly prevent them from sending improper emigrants, or in too great numbers, or at improper times, or without necessary provision for their comfort and health during the voyage, and for their prosperity and happiness after their arrival in Liberia.

The Parent Society will, however judge for itself, in marking the lines of its future duties, and in that respect be regulated by wise and enlightened counsels. But by dividing, in the manner suggested, the labor and responsibility, and securing the active co-operation of a greater

number of devoted friends in different parts of the country, and at the same time, acknowledging and yielding to the control and direction of a wise and efficient central head to check all extravagant or irregular action, the business of colonization hereafter, we trust will be conducted with greater care, regularity and economy.

In conformity with this principle of action, the Colonization Society of the city of New York, will hereafter itself expend in colonization, the money which shall be raised under its immediate auspices. To enable this Society to do that, the Parent Society has given us permission to establish a new settlement, to be called *New York*, at some suitable location in Liberia—and to direct all our energies and expend all our resources upon that object.

In prosecuting it, we shall not endeavor to see, how many free persons of color we can, by our own efforts, send to Africa; nor how many slaves we can emancipate. But our great aim will be, to promote, by all the means in our power, the true interests of those who may emigrate to our settlement, and the true interests of the pagan population among whom they settle.

To this end our Colony will be founded on the following principles:—

1st. The selection of such emigrants only as are members of the Temperance Society, and of unexceptionable moral character.

2d. The settlement of them under such circumstances as will promote Agriculture, especially the cultivation of the staples of the African soil, such as Rice, Cotton, Sugar, and Coffee.

3d. The adoption of a system of universal education, and to provide at once the means of instruction in letters and the useful arts of life, not only for the Colonists, but also for the native African, who may live in the settlement and its vicinity.

4th. The entire prohibition of the use of, and trafic in ardent spirits—except for medicinal purposes.

In view of the facts and objects above presented, the Colonization Society of the City of New York, have adopted the necessary measures, to secure an efficient Board of Managers, and responsible and active officers and agents to conduct its future business and operations. The Society has resolved to establish a Colony, and has already an exploring agent employed in Africa, to examine Cape Mount, the site of the contemplated Colony—and if it shall be found an eligible position, to make the necessary arrangements for the reception of the pioneer emigrants. If the Society should be disappointed in the eligibility of this site, another one will be sought, and the like arrangements made. The Society, therefore, earnestly and respectfully invite the co-operation and support of their fellow-citizens, in executing this interesting and benevolent enterprize. They pledge themselves that all money and property, contributed to this object, shall be faithfully and economically applied.

WILLIAM A. DUER, *President.*

IRA B. UNDERHILL, *Recording Secretary.*

New York, February 17th, 1834.

COLONIZATION MEETING.

At a public meeting of citizens friendly to the Colonization cause, held in the Brick Church, February 26th, 1834.

William A. Duer, (President of the City Colonization Society,) presided, and Ira B. Underhill acted as Secretary.

Robert S. Finley (the agent of the Society), made an interesting and instructive address, in which he gave a brief history of what had been done for Africa, this country, and the colored population of both, by the American Colonization Society, a clear and satisfactory account of the present condition of the colony, and of the new and efficient reorganization of that Society, and of its cheering prospects for the future. All who heard him, must have been gratified to learn the great benefits, which the American Colonization Society have conferred, and are still conferring on the human family, by persevering and successful efforts, to increase the happiness, and promote the intellectual and moral culture of the African race.

He alluded, in terms of high approbation, to the interesting enterprise, which the New York City Colonization Society had undertaken, of planting a colony of their own, to be called "New York," on the coast of Africa; but he left the exposition of their plan, to the members of the Society, who would follow him in addressing the meeting.

The following resolution was then offered by the Rev. Cyrus Mason, and seconded by Thomas G. Fletcher Esq :

Resolved, That this meeting approve of the determination of the Colonization Society of the city of New York, to establish a Colony at Cape Mount, or some other suitable place in Western Africa, to be called *New York*.

This resolution was adopted by the meeting.

The Rev. John Woodbridge D. D. then offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That this meeting highly approve of the proposed adoption of a system of universal education, in the new settlement to be founded in Liberia, and the providing at once of the means of instruction in letters, and the useful arts of life, not only for the colonists, but for the native Africans who may live in the settlement and its vicinity.

In support of this resolution, Mr. Woodbridge made an animated and powerful address. It is impossible to give all his clear and striking views of the subject, we shall only attempt to give the substance of a few of them.

He remarked that the very thought of establishing a colony in Liberia, with a system of universal education, was cheering.

A slight allusion to what has been done in this country, presented a vivid picture of what might be accomplished in Africa, if men of the requisite qualifications would engage in the undertaking. What but education and a pure religion, made the difference between civilized and savage life. An enterprize like the one in contemplation, was of incalculable advantage to both hemispheres. We might light up a spark of intelligence in Africa, which would radiate to the remotest corners of that benighted continent.

Mr. Woodbridge having finished his remarks, the Rev. Mr. Jackson seconded the resolution, and it was adopted by the meeting.

Samuel A. Foot, Esq. then offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That this meeting approve the principles upon which the proposed new colony is to be founded, the direct tendency of which will be, to rear a temperate, religious, and agricultural community.

Mr. Foot, in support of this resolution, proceeded to state the principles, upon which the Society had determined to

found the contemplated Colony, and the particulars in which they differed from those, which had heretofore been followed by the Parent Society,

First, in respect to the character of the emigrants. The Parent Society for many reasons had not been able always to exclude from Liberia, every person, who was not well qualified for establishing a new settlement, in a Pagan land ; and consequently, too many persons of idle habits and loose principles had found their way to the Colony. And although they were not sufficiently numerous, materially to retard the prosperity and usefulness of the Colony, yet the effect of colonization in Africa would have been more benign on the surrounding population, if fewer persons of this description had been admitted into the Colony. This disadvantage, the New York Society had resolved to overcome, and *permit no person to enter their Colony, whose moral character was not unquestioned and above reproach*, and as far as they were able, they intended to procure emigrants of religious principles.

Second, In respect to temperance. The Parent Society had not been able heretofore, to insist, as a rule, that no person of intemperate habits should emigrate to their Colony, nor enforce a prohibition against a traffic in ardent spirits. The importance of rigid regulations on this subject had now become important, and it was believed to be the determination of the General Society hereafter, to enforce strict rules in respect to the habits of emigrants, and the traffic in ardent spirits.

But the New York Society, beginning a new settlement, with the advantage of the experience of the Parent Society, *had determined not to admit an adult into it, who was not avowedly an advocate and practiser of temperance.*

Third, in respect to dwellings and the provision for emigrants on their arrival in Africa.

It had been customary heretofore, to place the whole of

any company of emigrants, who should arrive in a ship, in a large building, to undergo their seasoning, where they were fed, and the sick nursed and provided with medical aid at the public expense, and where they were permitted to remain six months, before they took possession of their own residences. It is believed to be a decided improvement on this plan, to provide each family, before their arrival in Africa, with a separate residence, and allow them there to attend upon each other, and if they shall require it, give them there such assistance as they may need.

The colony already established in Africa is more commercial in its character, than is supposed, is most beneficial for the emigrants, or the neighboring population. It is therefore intended, and indeed, resolved upon by the New York Society, to give their colony a decided agricultural cast, and to make agriculture the controlling, and almost the exclusive occupation of their colonists.

With these views, they intend to send out this spring, a company of pioneers to survey and mark the boundaries of their colony,—divide a section of it into farms of a convenient size, and erect dwellings, and make other suitable arrangements for the reception of emigrants in the fall,—provided their plan meets the approbation of their fellow citizens, and they are furnished with means to carry it into execution.

Mr. Foot presented several more outlines of the measures, which the Society intended to pursue, and of the benefits which they expected would follow them,—and particularly called the attention of the meeting, to the benefits which an agricultural, moral and religious community in Africa would confer upon that unhappy continent, and also on the more enlightened and elevated portion of the people of colour in this country, as it would open a field for the exertion of their talents, and the enjoyment, in freedom and independence, of the fruits of their industry. But we have not

room for a full statement of all the subjects to which he drew the attention of the meeting.

The Rev. Cyrus Mason rose and stated, that he had not intended to address the meeting, but the clouds, that had hung, in his mind, over colonization in Africa, were dispelled by the presentation of the plan of the New York Society. That association had determined to put colonization on the true and broad basis of christian philanthropy, and it ought, and would prevail. Mr. Mason remarked, that he should hereafter give himself heartily to the cause. The plan now proposed, he was well assured, would meet the views and wishes of the educated and christian portion of the coloured population of this city. It was what they desired, and would no doubt receive their support. Mr. M. made a number of other interesting and animated remarks, which were cheering to the friends of the cause.

The resolution offered by Mr. Foot was adopted.

The following resolution was then offered by Silas Brown, and seconded by Henry S. Richards, and adopted.

Resolved, That this meeting deem it the duty of every christian Philanthropist to exert himself in the cause of African colonization, believing it to be an effective method of elevating that unfortunate race, unhappily cast among us, and a certain and safe method of producing ultimate emancipation.

Wm. W. Campbell then offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That this meeting view with lively interest, the efforts now making by the Ladies of this city, for the institution and support of schools in Africa, both among the colonists and natives.

He observed that the institution and support of schools in Africa, was a pure and holy cause, well worthy the efforts of that portion of the human family, whose peculiar duty and pleasure it was, to instruct and train the young for lives of usefulness. The lateness of the hour would prevent

him from addressing the meeting on the subject of the resolution, but he hoped it would receive the full assent of all present.

The Rev. Gardiner Spring, D. D. seconded this resolution—and said, that he deeply sympathized with the feelings and sentiments which had been expressed. He knew the history of the cause of colonization,—it originated in the best and purest motives,—there had been a mistake in the first planting of the colony, from a delicacy upon the subject of uniting Church and State. The Parent society had thought best to leave the religious and literary concerns of the colony, more to the exertion of individuals and other societies, than its true interests demanded. But we might as well throw a new born infant into a mountain of snow, as send an ignorant and unchristianized coloured man back to Africa to sink again into paganism. He concurred in the remark of the worthy agent of the Society, that emancipation was far ahead of christian, moral, and intellectual culture. We should direct our efforts to the improvement of our coloured population, more than we had done, and thus fit them for the responsible duties of colonists among the pagans of their colour. He hailed with joy, the plan of the New York Society. It met his wishes and views, and he had no doubt of its success. We had a promise from on high, that “Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands unto God,” and it would be performed.

Wm. L. Stone Esq, then offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Silas Brown Esq. and adopted:

Resolved, That after a full examination of the proceedings of the Parent Society, its history, and the circumstances under which it is now engaged, in the noble cause, for which it was founded, this meeting has entire confidence in its character and integrity.

W. A. DUER, *Chairman*.

IRA B. UNDERHILL, *Secretary*.

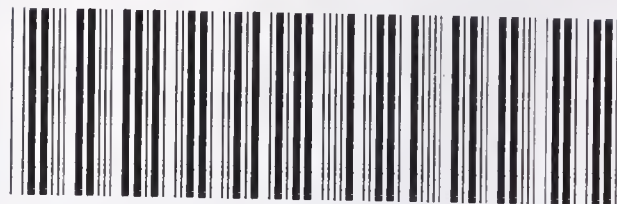
REMARKS.

By the address of the Society, and the proceedings of the meeting, which are above presented, the public will see the true character of the plan of the New York Colonization Society. It is not supposed to be entirely free from imperfections, but it is believed to approach as near a perfect system of colonization in Africa, as the nature of the subject will admit. It aims at the temporal and eternal happiness, not only of the emigrants, but of the pagans among whom they are to go. The Society earnestly hope their efforts will meet the approbation of the friends of Christian philanthropy, and receive their united aid in carrying the plan into execution.

WILLIAM L. STONE,
WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL, } *Executive*
THOMAS G. FLETCHER, } *Committee.*

New York, February 26th 1834.

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